



# *News Release*

## REGIONAL OFFICE

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## **SBA Region VI Sets Loan Volume Record in 2004, Boosts Small Business Capital by \$1.8 Billion**

**DALLAS/FORT WORTH** – The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), Region VI encompassing the states of Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas posted strong gains in its major small business programs in the recently completed FY 2004, Regional Administrator Joseph Montes said today. Loans totaled 9,537 for a dollar amount of \$1.8 billion, an increase of 1,976 loans or 26 percent over FY 2003.

“Region VI’s accomplishments this past year have helped thousands of Americans start or expand their small businesses,” Regional Administrator Montes said. “In the five state region 53,960 jobs have been created or retained as a result of the SBA loan volume.”

In total, loans to small businesses owned by minorities increased by 77 percent, from 2,149 in FY2003 to 3,818 in FY2004 (ending September 30, 2004). Loans to women increased by 27 percent from 1795 in FY 2003 to 2281 in FY 2004, while loans to veterans increased by 15 percent from 963 in 2003 to 1107 in 2004 and International Trade loans increased 47 percent from 188 in FY 2003 to 276 in FY 2004.

“This increase in our loans is the result of the positive approach we have taken in the region,” added Montes. These results reaffirm our commitment to providing increased access to capital to the small business community.”

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